



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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J. TYLER McCaULEY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

December 28, 2006

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *[Signature]*  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT UNITED  
AMERICAN INDIAN INVOLVEMENT, INCORPORATED, AH-NO-VEN  
SITE**

We have completed a review of Ah-No-Ven Group Home, (Group Home or Agency) operated by United American Indian Involvement Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Ah-No-Ven Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 14-17 years who exhibit behavior, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Ah-No-Ven Group Home was providing services for one Los Angeles County DCFS child, two privately placed children, one San Diego County child, and one Sonoma County child.

Ah-No-Ven Group Home is located in the Fifth District.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address several deficient areas.

Ah-No-Ven Group Home needs to clean the carpet and paint the walls throughout the group home; clean the kitchen stove and oven; include all members of the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans; maintain current Needs and Services Plans that are comprehensive and include short and long term goals; maintain adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services; maintain current court authorizations for children taking psychotropic medication; provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance; and encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/ life books.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:bg  
[http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group\\_home.asp](http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp)

### **Attachments**

- c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS  
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer  
Dr. Clark, Executive Director, Ah-No-Ven Group Home  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**United American Indian Involvement  
Ah-No-Ven Group Home  
1020 Highlight Drive  
West Covina, California 91791  
Phone: (626) 938-1947  
License Number: 197804463  
Rate Classification Level: 10**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Ah-No-Ven Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the carpet and walls throughout the Group Home are dirty; and the kitchen stove and oven are dirty.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

**Recommendations**

**1. Ah-No-Ven Group Home management:**

- a. Clean the carpet throughout the Group Home.**
- b. Clean or paint the walls throughout the Group Home.**
- c. Clean the kitchen stove and oven.**

## **II. Program Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: One**

#### **Comments:**

The child meets the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in the Program Statement. The child was assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

All members of the treatment team and input from the child are not included in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs). The NSPs are not current, comprehensive, and do not include short or long term goals.

Case files do not reflect adequate documentation to show that the child is receiving treatment services.

### **Recommendations**

#### **2. Ah-No-Ven Group Home management:**

- a. Include the placement worker as part of the treatment team, and input from the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.**
- b. Maintain current Needs and Services Plans.**
- c. Develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited and include short and long term goals.**
- d. Maintain adequate documentation to show that the child is receiving treatment services.**

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: One**

#### **Comments:**

The child is attending school. The child is provided with educational support and resources to meet her educational needs, and is progressing satisfactorily in school.

The Group Home's program includes the development of the child's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

The child is provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: One**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides the child with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. The child is provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. The child participates in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which she has an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Comments:**

Documentation confirms that the child is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. However, the child does not have a current court authorization for the psychotropic medication she is taking.

The child is aware of her right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

### **Recommendation**

- 3. Ah-No-Ven Group Home management maintain current court authorizations for children taking psychotropic medication.**

## **VI. Personal Rights**

### **Method of assessment –Interviews with children**

**Sample size: One**

#### **Comments:**

The child is informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. The child reports that she feels safe in the Group Home, and is provided with appropriate staff supervision. The child expresses satisfaction with the quality of her interactions with staff, and reports that the staff treats her with respect and dignity.

The child reports that she is assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. The child is able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. The child is able to attend religious services of her choice.

The child reports that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The child reports satisfaction with meals and snacks.

The child receives voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: One**

#### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to the child. The child is provided with opportunities to select her own clothes. Clothing provided to the child is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The child spends her allowance as she chooses. However, the Group Home does not provide the child with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides the child with adequate personal care items.

The child is not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining a photo album/life book.

**Recommendations**

**4. Ah-No-Ven Group Home management:**

- a. Provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.**
- b. Encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**



# United American Indian Involvement, Inc.

1125 West 6th Street, Suite 103 • Los Angeles, California 90017  
Tel: (213) 202-3970 • Fax: (213) 202-3977



## Robert Sundance Family Wellness Center

1125 West 6th Street, Suite 103  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
Tel: (213) 202-3970  
Fax: (213) 202-3977

- Inpatient/Outpatient  
Alcohol/Drug/Mental Health  
Employment Counseling
- Nutrition
- Senior Services
- Sober Living For Women
- Positive Parenting

## Los Angeles American Indian Health Project

Tel: (213) 202-3970  
Fax: (213) 202-3977

- Health Screening/Case  
Management
- Diabetes Program
- Immunization (Child/Adult)
- VA Clinic collaborative
- Health/Nutrition/Education

## Los Angeles American Indian Clubhouse

Tel: (213) 202-3976  
Fax: (213) 202-3977

- Academic tutoring
- Recreational/Social Activities
- Computer Software Classes
- Counseling

## Robert Sundance Workforce Development Program

Tel: (213) 202-3970  
Fax: (213) 202-3977

## Seven Generations Child & Family Counseling Services

Tel: (213) 241-0979  
Fax: (213) 241-0925

- seven\_generations@hotmail.com
- Child & Family Counseling  
Crisis Interventions/Case  
Management/Parenting  
Training/Domestic Violence  
& Sexual Assault Counseling

## Circles of Care Research and Planning Program

Tel: (213) 481-2194

Fax: (213) 481-2246

E-mail: DrCJohnson@aol.com

- Research Project
- Plan/Develop/Evaluate a  
system of care model

## Youth Regional Treatment Center (YRTC)

Ah-No-Ven (Healing) Home

1020 Highlight Drive

West Covina, CA 91791

Tel: (626) 938-1947

Cell: (213) 305-3876

E-mail: pc399@att.net

September 29, 2006

## Ah-No-Ven Home Corrective Action Plan

### I Facility and Environment

- The carpet throughout the group home will be cleaned the week of October 8th, 2006. The carpet will be cleaned regularly every 6 months or sooner if needed. The Director will ensure that carpet is cleaned every six months and the Clinical Director will monitor maintenance of the home.
- Clinical Director has scheduled painters to come into the home and paint the residents' bedrooms and other rooms throughout the house. All painting throughout the Group Home will be completed by October 31, 2006. The Director and Clinical Director will evaluate home yearly to assess when Group Home must be painted again.
- The stove and oven have been cleaned. Management has revised overnight shift duties to include weekly, thorough cleaning of the oven and stove in the home. The House Manager will ensure that overnight staff is cleaning the stove and oven regularly. The Director will work with House Manager to ensure that shift duties are completed in an accurate and timely manner.

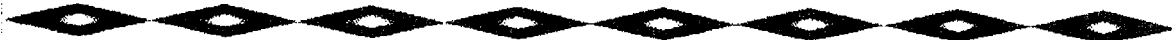
### II. Program Services

- The Director will make sure that Needs and Services Plans will include input from the childrens' CSW and input from each child. The Clinical Director will review all charts.
- The Director will ensure that Needs and Services Plans will be completed every 90 days. The Clinical Director will review all charts.
- Current and future Needs and Services Plans will be specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include long term and short term goals as required by licensing. The Clinical Director will review all Needs and Services Plans to ensure that the plans reflect criteria listed above.
- UAII has put in a request to the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to make copies of each child's DMH record, currently housed at the agency's 6<sup>th</sup> St. address, so that records of residents' mental health services are housed at Ah-No-Ven. The Clinical Director of the Group Home will be responsible for contacting the DMH Director at UAII and requesting that the documents be



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copied for the home. The Director will be responsible for making sure that the notes are copied and stored at the Ah-No-Ven Home.

## **V. Psychotropic Medication**

Ah-No-Ven Home has a current psychotropic medication court authorization for the DCFS child in the home. The House Manager will ensure that authorizations are filed in a timely manner and will follow up directly with the court to get authorization number. The Director will ensure that this corrective action remains implemented and is working as intended.

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

- The required weekly minimum allowance of \$7 was implemented by the House Manager the following allowance schedule on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The Director and Clinical Director will review DCFS contract and they will be responsible for ensuring that the Group Home is in compliance with DCFS rules and regulations.
- All residents of the home have a life book/photo album. The House Manager will be responsible for purchasing life books for each resident. Staff will assist residents in creating their life books and document when residents work on their life books. The Director will review life books and documentation.

Monique C. Smith, Psy.D.

Director Ah-No-Ven Home